

## THE CHAMPION

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY on Thursday  
Afternoon by T. E. & Royal B. Child,  
Owners and Publishers.

SUBSCRIPTION One Dollar a Year. Most Posi-  
tively in Advance.

Entered at the Post Office at Arcadia, Florida as  
Second Class Mail Matter.

Our readers will be sorry to have Wauchulaite's "War Times" reminiscences close, as they do this week. We have all enjoyed them and hope our friend will, when he has time favor us with something more for Wauchulaite has a style of his own that makes all he writes entertaining.

The new weekly, at St. Petersburg, the Independent, has arrived and we gladly put it on our list, for among our state exchanges we have only a few that come up to the Independent in general makeup, interesting and original reading matter, live locals, and all that goes to make up a first class paper. Success to the Independent!

THE CHAMPION will have office rooms in one of the first new concrete stone buildings to be erected in Arcadia, that for Espenlaub's City Meat Market. The original plan of Mr. Espenlaub was a one story building, but on consulting us he decided to add about \$1200 more to the original estimated cost and fix us up first class printing office rooms in the second story. The building will be on the site of the old DeSoto Hotel.

We are in receipt of Taylor's Cartoon Book, just out, and have enjoyed it immensely. The cartoons have appeared in the Jacksonville Sun during the last six months, and are now put into book form, published on fine paper, neatly paper bound and sell for one dollar. The Cartoonist shows up public men and their doings in a most striking and effective way and Mr. Taylor is an artist of unusual ability and wit in his line.

What would the Punta Gorda Herald editor and the editors of the Tampa Tribune and Jacksonville Metropolis say if it should shortly be made evident that Cooper is not guilty of the murder of Bowman? It is now rumored on the streets of Arcadia that the Grand Jury now in session here has up before it a witness that will disclose evidence clearing Cooper and implicating another man. If this rumor has a foundation in fact, won't the aforesaid editors please go way down and sit back?

If it is true, as some of our exchanges say—and we do not deny it—that DeSoto county has turned loose fifteen murderers after short sentences—does that make it imperative that the one sentenced on circumstantial evidence solely shall be hanged? There never was any doubt of the guilt of a number of those that are now free but there is about the guilt of Cooper. Why insist that one who may be innocent suffer the penalty that others deserved but didn't get? Would his hanging even up matters properly?

Our Senator Whidden was recently a witness in the Injunction suit against Governor Broward for collecting the drainage tax, and gives valuable testimony. Like most of the old settlers Senator Whidden opposes the draining of the Everglades, it be-

ing his opinion that while lowering Lake Okeechobee would benefit the marshes and prairies that drain towards the lake it would not help the pine lands. The drainage of the cypress swamps would not be beneficial to the timber, giving as an instance a body of cypress that he knew that was burned out by the drying of the peat and fire in it that sometimes burns for six week, at a time.

For the benefit of a number of the editors of the state who are much exercised over the supposition that DeSoto's sheriff has had to erect and tear down three gallows that were not used for Cooper we give this information. There has been but one gallows erected and it still stands a menace to evil doers. So far as we know, except for the first cost of putting it up, the only expense that has been wasted is the invitation cards—100 of them, issued by Sheriff Fielder to the first hanging, which didn't come off. And although those holding invitations may have felt defrauded, they were not really out anything. The printer got pay for the cards and as the cost was not excessive probably, the sheriff has gotten over his loss by this time.

Our present sheriff, Mr. Freeman, so far as we know has been at no trouble except arranging the noose, and we can almost swear that he did the untying act thankfully.

Friends don't waste your sympathy on us. Save it for those who need it.

### SHERIFF TO BE ELECTED.

It will be news to most of DeSoto county people to hear that we must elect a sheriff this year. Sheriff Freeman was elected for a four year's term and received his four years commission, but one of his bondsmen having failed after the sixty days had expired after election, in which the bond could be made all the governor could legally do was to appoint Mr. Freeman sheriff until he could be elected over again. Therefore Mr. Freeman will be a candidate this year. He has made an excellent record and so far as we know will have no opposition.

### In War Times.

(Continued from Page One)

General Cheatham had just told us "pretty d— badly whipped."

As soon as preparations could be made we marched out in line with bowed heads, stacked arms and answered to the last roll call as survivors of the army of Tennessee. This was one of the saddest duties I was ever called on to perform, or rather a mixture of joy and sorrow, joy at the idea of returning to our homes, sorrow at the loss of hundreds and thousands of lives and a lost cause, a cause that the southern people conscientiously believed to be just, although I have long since left that to abler heads than my own to decide. I am proud today of the title "A Confederate Veteran."

From 107 privates when we left the state only eight on the day of surrender was left to represent Company E 3rd Florida Regiment. The curtain now drops. War Times are closed. If we have been the humble means of enabling any to pass pleasantly a few leisure hours or to take a real side splitting laugh our object has been fully accomplished.

WAUCHULAITE.

March 6.

Lowney's fancy chocolates at the Bakery.

New line pants and Selz shoes at Gore & Scott's.

# 23 Ready 2 Wear SUITS

Were \$15.00

While They last \$9.50

Perry C. Brown.

Arcadia, Florida.

Go to Johnson & Plummer for your cool drinks in the summer.

Have you tried that wheat flake celery food at Webb's bakery? It is superfine.

All the Strickland accounts are ready. Come and pay at once. Johnson & Plummer.

We guarantee the Kimball pianos and organs and keep them tuned for you. T. W. Lawton.

Get Henry Whidden to take your measure for an International suit of clothes at Gore & Scott's.

Mrs. C. H. Smith's Easter Dress Hats are now on the way, and will be open for inspection in about ten days.

There will be a regular communication of Peace River Lodge No. 66 F. & A. m. Friday night, March 9th at 7:30. Masons in good standing cordially invited.

Mrs. C. H. Smith has probably the most complete and finest line of embroideries and laces ever brought to Arcadia. Call and see them and learn prices.

We are still selling

**Economist Stove**

The best on Earth

**Barbed Wire**

\$2.65 per 1/4 mile roll

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY

**The Arcadia Hardware Co.**

The Name that Stands for Quality

**Kimball Pianos  
Kimball Organs**

Write or call on me.

**T. W. Lawton, Mgr.**

Ludden-Campbell-Smith-Co.

Arcadia, Florida.